

**THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
BILLY ROSE THEATRE COLLECTION**

**LINA ABARBANELL, 1885-1963
PAPERS, 1886-1963**

*T-Mss 1963-001
MER 10/1992
Updated 10/1998

MAIN ENTRY: Lina Abarbanell, 1885-1963

TITLE: Papers, 1886-1963

SIZE: .8 lf. (2 boxes)

ACCESS: Unrestricted

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE: Lina Abarbanell, born in Germany in 1885 was a light opera star, actress, artistic consultant and director. Her best known works include the starring roles in *Madame Sherry*, *The Merry Widow* and *Florabella*. Her dramatic roles include *The Grand Duke*, *Enter Madame* and *Sparkling Burgundy*. She married political journalist Edward Goldbeck. She died in Philadelphia in 1963 at the age of 78.

DESCRIPTION: The Lina Abarbanell Papers consist of materials documenting both her life and the life of her husband, Edward Goldbeck. Included in the collection are correspondence, production files, clippings and photographs from her career and personal life. Included as well, are awards, correspondence and writings from her husband, Edward Goldbeck and her daughter, Eva. The collection spans the years 1886 to 1963. Most of the materials, however are from 1923 to 1960.

INTRODUCTION

The Lina Abarbanell Papers were donated to the Billy Rose Theatre Collection in 1963 by Anna Deere Wiman. The papers arrived in no apparent order and were cataloged into the collection in this manner at that time. In 1992 a complete survey and inventory was done on the collection (THE(SUR)920001), they were reprocessed and a finding aid written.

ARRANGEMENT NOTE

The Lina Abarbanell Papers are divided into two subgroups and six series.

Subgroup I: Lina Abarbanell Files

1. Personal Papers
2. Correspondence
3. Production Files
4. Notes and Writings
5. Outlines
6. Clippings and Interviews.

Subgroup II: Goldbeck Family Papers

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Lina Abarbanell, light opera star, director, music coach and artistic consultant was born in Germany in 1885. She began her stage career at the age of 14 singing the role of Adele in *Fledermaus* at the Royal Opera House in Berlin. After emigrating to the United States she sang lead roles in *The Merry Widow*, *Madame Sherry*, *The Red Canary*, *Miss Princess* and *Florabella*, to name a few. At the advice of David Belasco she began working in the dramatic stage in his production of *The Grand Duke*. Other works included *Enter Madame*, *Fata Morgana*, *Sparkling Burgundy* and *The Inspector-General* among others. She directed productions of *Champagne Sec* and *The Chimes of Normandy*. She married political journalist, Edward Goldbeck.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Lina Abarbanell Papers consist of production files and some scripts, correspondence, manuscripts and outlines of plays and other writings of her husband, Edward Goldbeck and her daughter, Eva. Photographs and programs were separated from the collection and distributed in photograph and program files (see separation sheet).

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

Sub-Group I - Lina Abarbanell Papers [1929-1963] .6 lf.

These are divided into six series.

1. **Personal Papers** [n.d.] - These include biographical information, personal and some professional photographs and membership cards.

2. **Correspondence** [1929-1963] - This includes business and personal correspondence and spans the years 1929-1963. Of special note is a letter from Leontyne Price.

3. **Production Files** [1930-1959] - These include general casting files used by Mme. Abarbanell as an artistic consultant as well as some scripts and files for production on which she was involved either as a director or consultant. Of special note are production notes from *Porgy & Bess*, and *Carmen Jones*.

4. **Notes and Writings** [n.d.] - These include miscellaneous notes and manuscripts (mostly unidentified) written by Mme. Abarbanell and others.

5. **Outlines** [n.d.] - Included are outlines for prospective musicals and plays on which Mme. Abarbanell worked either as an actress, diector or artistic consultant.

6. **Clippings and Interviews** [n.d.] - Clip files for many productions on which Lina Abarbanell was associated either as a star, director or artistic consultant. Included are *Enter Madame*, *Madame Sherry*, *I Married an Angel*, *Florabella* and *Porgy & Bess* among others.

Sub-Group II - Goldbeck Family Papers [1886-1935] .2 lf

These are not divided into series but include correspondence of both Edward and Eva Goldbeck, the writings of Edward and Eva Goldbeck and awards belonging to Edward

Goldbeck.

LINA ABARBANELL PAPERS
***T-Mss 1963-001**

CONTAINER LISTING

SUB-GROUP I: LINA ABARBANELL FILES

Series 1 - Personal Papers

BOX NO. 1

Folder No.

- | | | |
|---|-------------------|--|
| 1 | Personal Papers - | Abarbanell Genealogy & Biographical
Information |
| 2 | | Membership Cards |
| 3 | | Personal Photographs |

Series 2 - Correspondence

- | | | |
|---|------------------|---|
| 4 | Correspondence - | Business Correspondence |
| 5 | | Correspondence [1929-1939] |
| 6 | | Correspondence [1940-1963]
(includes note from Leontyne Price) |
| 7 | | Correspondence [n.d.] |
| 8 | | Correspondence - Grants & Scholarships |

Series 3 - Production Files

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|--|
| 9 | Production Files - | Casting Ideas |
| 10 | | Casting Ideas - Musicians & Singers |
| 11 | | <i>Carmen Jones</i> - Cast Possibilities |
| 12 | | Correspondence |
| 13 | | Production Files |
| 14 | | <i>The Country Girl</i> - Casting List |
| 15 | | <i>Green Pastures</i> - Production Files |
| 16 | | <i>I Married An Angel</i> - Cast List |
| 17 | | <i>Juno</i> - Production Files |
| 18 | | <i>Little Foxes</i> - Production Notes |
| 19 | | <i>Porgy & Bess</i> - Correspondence (Casting) |
| 20 | | Cast List (some <i>Green Pastures</i> included) |
| 21 | | Production Notes |

22		Schedules
23	<i>Street Scene</i> -	Casting
24	<i>The Three-Toed Pony</i> -	Script
25		Script
26		Correspondence (includes letter from Jose Quintero)
27	Unidentified script	

Series 4 - Writings and Notes

BOX NO. 2

Folder No.

1	Writings & Notes -	State Theatre - Notes & Research
2		<i>Suspicious People</i> - Notes
3		Notes - Unidentified
4		Notes - Unidentified
5		Writings - Critique of <i>Regina</i> by Blitzstein
6		Writings - The Work of an Actor (author unknown)
7		Writings - Unidentified

Series 5 - Outlines

8	Outlines -	<i>Everyone Goes</i>
9		<i>How May I Become Rich and Happy</i>
10		<i>I Married An Angel</i>
11		<i>Lisa and the Lord</i> (Musical)
12		<i>Mother Hummingbird</i>
13		Mozart story (untitled)
14		<i>Offenbach</i>

Series 6 - Clippings & Interviews

15	Clippings -	<i>Enter Madame</i> by Gilda Varesi [n.d.]
16		<i>Flora Bella</i> by Chas. Cuvillier & Milton Schwarzwald [n.d.]
17		<i>The Grand Duke</i> by Sacha Guitry [1921-22]
18		<i>I Married An Angel</i> by Rodgers & Hart [n.d.]
19		<i>Madame Sherry</i> by Karl L. Hoschna [n.d.]
20		<i>The Merry Widow</i> by Franz Lehar [n.d.]
21		<i>Porgy & Bess</i> by George Gershwin [1925]
22		<i>Silver Swan</i> by Maurice Jacquet [n.d.]

23	<i>Sparkling Burgundy</i> by Edward Goldbeck [1925]
24	<i>The Three-Toed Pony</i> by Sidney Michaels [1953]
25	<i>The Well of Romance</i> by Maurice Jacquet [1930]
26	Clippings & Press Releases (Miscellaneous)
27	Clippings (Miscellaneous)
28	Interviews

SUB-GROUP II: GOLDBECK FAMILY PAPERS

29	Awards - Edward Goldbeck
30	Correspondence - Edward Goldbeck
31	Correspondence - Eva Goldbeck
32	Writings - Edward Goldbeck (English)
33	Writings - Edward Goldbeck (German)
34	Writings - Eva Goldbeck